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439 10 SUNBURY ON THAMES
URBAN DISTRICT OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR
1954

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

COUNCIL OFFICES,
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

TELEPHONE: SUNBURY 530/1 & 2209



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1954

Councillor Miss H.M.Preston, Chairman.

Councillor A.Schaffer, Vice-Chairman.

Councillors F.V.Brown, F.J.Budd, R. Jelfs, J.H.Kaye,

A. V. Nicholas, E. Rowland, C.W.Stonebanks

and

The Chairman of the Council
Councillor H. Clarkson, J.P. (Ex-Officio)

=====

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

R. Arnallt Jones, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

T.J.Moore, F.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector

C. W. Wood, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

C. Willard, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (from 29-12-54)
J. B. Crotty. (Student)

Clerk

Mrs. O. W. Lukyn.

Rodent Operatives

W. N. Reeve (to 31st May, 1954)

G.D.Chapman.

=====

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the direction of the Council, this annual report for the year 1954, which I have the pleasure of submitting, reviews health matters concerning the district and has been prepared on the lines suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 28/54.

The report is composed of sections on vital statistics, infectious disease, sanitary conditions and inspection of food.

In the year under consideration, the birth rate has risen while the infant mortality rate and the death rate have fallen.

There has been no outbreak of major communicable disease. Measles (370 cases) and whooping cough (90 cases) were more prevalent than in the previous year and constituted 95% of the notifications. Tuberculosis and pneumonia excepted, there were no deaths from notifiable infections.

Since 1st July, 1954, a remarkable increase has taken place in the number of animals slaughtered in the district for human consumption. Each carcase is inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors upon whom a heavy burden has fallen, particularly as the work extends to the late evenings and to the week ends. Thus the total number of animals slaughtered in the last six months of the year was 8,348.

Recent years have seen a considerable influx of caravans into Sunbury. Water supply and sanitation in connection with these dwellings pose their problems and the sites, both large and small, require constant supervision from their owners and regular visits from the Public Health staff.

Some of the shallow wells in use for domestic purposes yield occasional unsatisfactory samples indicating that their supply is unsafe for drinking unless boiled. In these instances the possibility of the water becoming polluted with dangerous bacteria is ever present particularly where main drainage has not been installed. Suitable warning and advice is given to the consumers.

In conclusion, I am glad to record my grateful appreciation of the assistance of Mr. Moore and his staff and of Mrs. Lukyn in preparing this report. To the members of the Public Health Committee I would respectfully say that their interest in matters concerning the wellbeing of the public has been an encouragement to the staff of this Department.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
R. ARNALLT JONES

July 1955.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS
RELATING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,609
Population (estimated by the Registrar-General for mid year 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	24,460
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£251,999
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,033
Live births	...	...	...	...	...	461
Birth rate (live births) per 1,000 population (England & Wales 15.2)	...	...	...	...	...	18.8
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	5
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births (England & Wales 24.0)	...	...	...	...	...	10.7
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	221
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales 11.3)	...	...	...	...	...	9.0
Deaths from maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	6
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (England & Wales 25.5)	...	...	...	...	...	13.0
Chief causes of death:						
Diseases of the Heart & Blood Vessels						107
Malignant new growths						42
Pneumonia & Bronchitis						13

Comparability Factors: Births 0.94
 Deaths 1.12

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	228	211	439
Illegitimate	11	11	22
	<u>239</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>461</u>

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the population ... 18.8
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 of the population ... 17.6

Live Births 1950 - 1954

	<u>Sunbury-on-Thames</u>			<u>England & Wales</u>
Year	Live births	Crude rate per 1000 population	Adjusted rate per 1000 population	Rate per 1000 population
1950	396	17.09	16.23	15.8
1951	411	17.7	16.8	15.5
1952	429	18.01	16.9	15.3
1953	403	16.9	15.8	15.5
1954	461	18.8	17.6	15.2

Stillbirths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 10.7

Deaths (All ages)

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
117	104	221
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the population ...		9.0
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 of the population		10.08

Deaths 1950 - 1954

<u>Sunbury-on-Thames</u>				<u>England & Wales</u>
Year	Deaths	Crude rate per 1,000 population	Adjusted rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 population
1950	194	8.3	9.3	11.6
1951	246	10.6	11.9	12.5
1952	223	9.3	10.5	11.3
1953	244	10.2	11.4	11.4
1954	221	9.0	10.08	11.3

Explanatory note

Adjusted rates. When comparing the rate of one district with that of another, allowances should be made for the age and sex distribution of the population and an adjusted rate obtained which is the product of the crude rate and the comparability factor.

Comparability factors for the District (Calculated by the Registrar-General)

Births: 0.94
Deaths: 1.12

CAUSES OF DEATH
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S OFFICIAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1954

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11. " " lung, bronchus	8	4	12
12. " " breast	-	5	5
13. " " uterus	-	3	3
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	9	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	14	27
18. Coronary disease, angina	32	15	47
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	9	8	17
21. Other circulatory disease	6	7	13
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	2	6	8
24. Bronchitis	4	1	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	2	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	4	1	5
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	2	3
32. Other defined or ill-defined diseases	8	18	26
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	4	3	7
35. Suicide	7	-	7
36. Homicide & operations of War	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES	117	104	221
	=====	=====	=====

CAUSES OF DEATH BY AGE GROUPS

Causes	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
Tuberculosis, respiratory					1	
Syphilitic disease				1		
Malignant neoplasm, stomach				1		2
Malignant neoplasm, lung & bronchus					5	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast				1	4	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus					3	
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms				3	9	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system					6	21
Coronary disease, angina				1	12	34
Hypertension with heart disease					2	1
Other heart disease					1	16
Other circulatory disease	1				2	10
Pneumonia					1	7
Bronchitis					1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system						2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum				1		2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea					1	4
Nephritis & nephrosis						1
Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion				1		
Congenital malformation	3					
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	2	2		3	3	16
Motor vehicle accidents				2		
All other accidents				1	3	3
Suicide				1	6	
TOTALS	6	2		16	60	137

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	<u>Total</u>
Males	2	-	2
Females	4	-	4
	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... 13.0
(England & Wales 25.5)

INFANT MORTALITY 1950 - 1954

<u>Sunbury-on-Thames</u>				<u>England & Wales</u>
Year	Live births	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 live births	Rate per 1000 live births
1950	396	7	17.6	29.0
1951	411	11	26.8	29.6
1952	429	14	32.6	27.6
1953	403	6	14.8	26.8(a)
1954	461	6	13.0	25.5(a)

(a) per 1000 related live births.

Causes of death under 1 year of age

Causes	<u>Under 4 weeks</u>		<u>Over 4 weeks</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M	F	M	F	
Congenital malformations		1	1	1	3
Prematurity	1	1			2
Renal Vein Thrombosis				1	1
TOTALS	1	2	1	2	6

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Statutory Notifications during 1954 -

The following cases were notified

<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	12 cases. One sent to Hospital. None fatal.
<u>Whooping Cough</u>	90 cases. One sent to Hospital. None fatal.
<u>Measles</u>	370 cases. One sent to Hospital. None fatal.
<u>Acute Encephalitis</u>	Following mumps; One case notified. Sent to Hospital.
<u>Pneumonia</u>	One case. Sent to Hospital. Recovered.
<u>Food Poisoning</u>	(a) Single case - A boy aged 4 was sent to Hospital and notified as a case of infection with <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> . Owing to the lapse of time before the causative organism could be identified, it was not possible to undertake effective enquiry into the source of the infection. (b) <u>Family Outbreaks</u> Five members of a family had gastro-intestinal symptoms following the consumption of a home-prepared veal and ham pie. Though bacteriological investigation did not reveal the presence of any known pathogenic bacteria, it was highly probable that the pie was the vehicle of infection, as enquiries showed that its preparation and storage were faulty.
<u>Diphtheria</u>	There have been no cases since 1944.

Immunisation and Vaccination

I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for the information tabulated hereunder regarding immunisations and vaccinations carried out in this district during 1954.

Immunisations

(a)

Age at date of final injection	No. of children completing a primary course of immunisation		
	Diphtheria only	Combined diphtheria & whooping cough	Whooping cough only
Under 1 year	35	194	-
1 year	14	54	1
2 "	5	7	-
3 "	5	5	1
4 "	4	4	-
5 - 9	26	12	1
10 - 14	8	1	-
TOTAL	97	277	3

(b)

Age at date of injection	No. of children who received re-inforcing injections		
	Diphtheria only	Combined diphtheria & whooping cough	Whooping cough only
2 years	-	1	-
3 "	1	-	-
4 "	17	4	-
5 - 9	264	22	-
10 - 14	226	3	-
15 & over	3	-	-
TOTAL	511	30	Nil

Vaccinations:

	Age at date of vaccination or re-vaccination					Total
	Under 1 year	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over	
Vaccinated	183	12	7	7	19	228
Re-vaccinated		1	3	4	31	39

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The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified in the past 5 years are as follows:

Disease	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Erysipelas			1		
Scarlet Fever	34	19	29	15	12
Whooping Cough	83	109	15	55	90
Measles	147	536	141	320	370
Pneumonia			2	7	1
Dysentery		2			
Ac. Poliomyelitis				6	
Ac. Encephalitis		1			1
Food Poisoning	3			1	6
Typhoid Fever	1				
Para-Typhoid Fever B	3				
Meningococcal Infection		1	1	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia				1	

The following diseases were brought to the notice of the Public Health Department by Head Teachers of Schools:

Chickenpox	...	159
Whooping Cough	...	25
Measles	...	118
German Measles	...	17
Scarlet Fever	...	8
Mumps	...	105
Scabies	...	1
Impetigo	...	2

The numbers, after correction, of cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1954, classified according to sex and age, are shown in the following table:

Age Group years	Scarlet fever		Whooping cough		Measles		Pneumonia		Food Poisoning		Acute encephalitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1			1	3	4	1						
1 -		1	1	7	15	14						
2 -		1	6	5	33	11						
3 -			8	4	17	15			1			
4 -	1		9	11	32	21			1			
5 -	2	5	14	18	98	101	1		2		1	
10-	2			3	1	4						
15-												
20-												
25-					1	2			1	1		
35-												
45-												
65-												
Totals	12		90		370		1		6		1	
Adm to Hosp.		1		2	1		1		1		1	

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified in each month of 1954.

Month	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Measles	Pneu- monia	Food poison- ing	Acute enceph- alitis
Jan		4				
Feb	1	6			5	
Mar		12	4			
Apl	2	17	69		1	
May	2	23	97	1		
June	2	15	96			
July		11	86			1
Aug		2	15			
Sept	1					
Oct	1		3			
Nov	2					
Dec	1					
TOTAL	12	90	370	1	6	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New cases notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul		Pul		Non-Pul	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 yrs	1							
5 - 14 yrs								
15 - 24 yrs	2	1	1					
25 - 44 yrs	5	4		2				
45 - 64 yrs	4				1			
65 & upwards	2							
TOTALS	14	5	1	2	1			

Number of cases who have moved into the District during 1954 13
 Number of cases who have moved to other Districts 2
 Number of cases removed from Register as "Lost sight of", "Refuses to attend" or "Recovered" 13
 Number of cases "Restored" to Register 3

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FOOD

The standard of hygiene in food and food-handling premises has risen steadily in recent years. These premises are inspected by members of the staff of this department and owners, as a rule, readily co-operate in effecting any improvements suggested.

Records are kept of the following types of food premises:

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	17
Bakehouses	...	...	...	4
Fish shops	...	...	...	7
Restaurants & Cafes	...	...	...	33

Number of inspections of registered food premises - 93

Condemned foods are disposed of by incineration. Details of work carried out, including inspections and results of sampling, licences issued and food condemned, are given in the appended report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Five dairies are registered. All milk sold in the district has been bottled. A small quantity of raw milk (tuberculin tested) is sold: the remainder has been heat-treated, i.e. pasteurised or sterilised.

Milk provided in schools has been pasteurised.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

77 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and one of these is registered for its manufacture. A considerable quantity of the icecream is prepacked. 17 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods.

Model byelaws are in force with respect to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the whole of the County.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Licences have been issued in respect of three slaughter-houses in the district. Regular slaughtering of animals has been carried out at two since 1st July, 1954. The slaughter of horses intended for food for human consumption is carried out at the other. In addition, one licence has been issued in respect of premises in use as a knacker's yard.

849 visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors to slaughter-houses and knackers' yards during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Number killed	1327	2885	3094	965
Number inspected	do.	do.	do.	do.

All diseases except
Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	3	5	-	-
Percentage of carcasses inspected found diseased	0.22	0.17	-	-

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	17	2	1	-
Percentage of carcasses inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.27	0.06	0.032	-

In addition to the above, 133 horses were slaughtered in the district. Of these, 11 horses were found to have some part or organ unfit for human consumption.

I am indebted to the Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council for the following report on samples procured in this District during 1954 : -

Article	Total samples procured	Unsatisfactory
Milk, various	8	-
Bread	1	1
Butter	7	-
Cakes	4	-
Cake decorations	1	-
Cheese	1	-
Chocolate drink	1	-
Cream	2	-
Curry powder	1	-
Drugs	2	-
Fish	4	1
Fruit syrup	3	-
Frying oil	1	-
Gherkins in vinegar	1	-
Liver	2	-
Margarine	1	-
Meat, cooked	1	-
Meat, minced	3	-
Saccarin	1	-
Sweets	3	-
Victoria plums	1	-
Vinegar	6	1
Wines and spirits	11	-
TOTAL	66	3

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The Chief Officer makes the following observations:

" Regarding the samples noted as unsatisfactory, the sample of bread was one of sliced bread which contained rodent excreta. The bakers were prosecuted and granted an absolute discharge on the payment of 10 guineas costs. The unsatisfactory sample of fish involved a sale of filleted witch when sole was asked for. The fishmonger was prosecuted and fined £2. with 2 guineas costs. The unsatisfactory vinegar sample involved the sale of non-brewed condiment as vinegar and in this case my Council sent the trader an official letter of caution.

" In connection with the Merchandise Marks Acts 1887 - 1926, and in particular the provisions of the Imported Food Orders made under the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, and which require in respect of various imported foodstuffs that the purchaser or prospective purchaser is notified by label of the origin of the food, 20 premises were visited and 118 displays of meat, apples, tomatoes, poultry and dried fruit were examined. No infringements of a substantial nature were discovered. Minor errors of labelling were dealt with by verbal caution or advice.

Nine samples of pasteurised milk were taken and submitted to the methylene blue and phosphatase tests laid down in the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53. None was unsatisfactory".

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SANITARY CONDITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

In the district there are about 7,030 permanent dwellings and 400 shacks and caravans.

WATER SUPPLY This is not plumbo-solvent. With the exception of about 230 dwellings dependent directly on shallow wells, an excellent piped supply is provided for the district by the following Water Companies:

- (a) The Metropolitan Water Board, supplying Sunbury, Sunbury Common, Upper Halliford and Charlton.
- (b) The West Surrey Water Company, supplying Shepperton and Littleton.
- (c) The South West Suburban Water Company, supplying Ashford Common.

Particulars are given in the following table of the approximate number of dwellings and of the number of the population supplied from public mains (a) direct to the dwellings, (b) by means of standpipes:

	Number of dwellings	Population
Direct to the dwellings	7,000	23,000
By means of standpipes	200	660

WATER EXAMINATION 17 samples (one from a standpipe and 16 from shallow wells) were submitted for bacteriological examination and reported upon as follows:

Standpipe	...	...	Sample satisfactory
Shallow wells	...	...	9 samples satisfactory
			7 samples unsatisfactory
			(coliform organisms present)

In two instances, notices were attached to the pumps advising consumers to boil the water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE The sewage is treated at the Sewage Disposal Works at Mogden. Cesspools are in use in connection with 350 dwellings. Another 400 dwellings - mostly temporary and including caravans - are provided with privies and chemical closets.

REFUSE The Council undertake the collection of household refuse and this is disposed of, under controlled conditions, on land reclaimed from a gravel pit in the area. Since November 1954, the refuse destructor at Charlton has been brought into use.

OPEN AIR SWIMMING BATH. The water is drawn from the River Thames and, without prior filtration, passed into the Bath where it is chlorinated. Daily tests are made for chlorine content and turbidity: chlorine is added daily as required. The Bath is emptied, cleansed and refilled on Mondays and Fridays.

LABORATORY SERVICE Details of specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination are as follows:

(a) Water

Bacteriological (for drinking purposes) ... 17

(b) Pathological Specimens

Sputum	...	1
Throat	...	7
Faeces	...	3
Food	...	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - Section 47 and
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) Act 1951 - Removal to
 suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention;

A Court Order under the Act of 1951 was obtained for the removal to hospital, and the detention and maintenance therein, for a period not exceeding three weeks, of an elderly woman who was bedridden after a recent 'stroke' and not receiving suitable and adequate care. No other woman was living in the house. She died a few days after her removal.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT 1944 - Section 357
 (Massage and Special Treatment)

Licences granted	...	...	...	...	4
Licences refused	...	...	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACT 1937

The following table shows the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors under this Act:

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health -

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	73	89	1	-
Factories without mechanical power	6	1	-	-
Totals	79	90	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found and remedied -

Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)	
Unsuitable or defective	1

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Sunbury-on-Thames,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1954.

The Public Health Act, 1936, together with legislation dealing with specific subjects such as the Housing Act 1936, the Food & Drugs Act 1938 and the Factories Act 1937 are the basis on which action is taken by your inspectors in relation to general public health matters.

The customary systematic inspection of the district proceeded smoothly and, except for the extra burden brought about by the resumption of slaughtering in private slaughterhouses, steadily throughout the year. As far as possible all insanitary conditions discovered in house property, factories, shops and other premises have been dealt with; this in spite of the fact that in many instances demands for repairs, improvements or other desirable changes have often been impeded by "shortage of labour", difficulty in obtaining material required or prohibitive costs. Nevertheless much has been done to raise the hygienic standard of premises, environmental hygiene, food handling and water supplies throughout the district.

The shortage of housing accommodation has precluded the representation and consideration of many unsatisfactory dwelling-houses for clearance. A preliminary survey has revealed that some 300 dwellings are rapidly deteriorating into a condition that will render drastic action necessary within measurable time. I would point out however that credit is due to many owners who have voluntarily carried out major repairs with very little hope of return, and on the other hand pay tribute to the forbearance of tenants who are deserving of better housing conditions.

To meet with the increase of duties imposed by legislation, viz., the Repairs & Rents Act 1964 and the Slaughter of Animals Act 1954 and its amendments, the Council appointed Mr. C. Willard of Walton-on-Thames as an Additional Inspector. Mr. Willard commenced duty on 29th December, 1954.

I desire to record once again my appreciation of the co-operation and support of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the Officers of other departments; Dr. R. Arnallt Jones; and the conscientious support of the members of the Public Health and Housing Staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T.J. MOORE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,
Sunbury-on-Thames.
July 1955.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints were received relating to the following matters:

Condition of premises	82
Choked or defective drains	40
Moveable dwellings	6
Rats and Mice	170
Keeping of animals	5
Offensive accumulations	14
Verminous premises	4
Other insect pests	11
Smoke nuisances	9
After-filling of gravel pits	2
Unsound food	21
Complaints not classified	13
T O T A L	<u>377</u>

INSPECTIONS

During the year, 3,307 inspections or visits to premises were made by your inspectors for the enforcement of Public Health, Food & Drugs, Shops, Housing and the Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts.

Housing Inspections (Primary)	89
Housing Reinspections	248
Council House Inspections	93
Housing enquiries (applications, etc.)	108
Housing Acts (overcrowding)	10
Factories (mechanical)	65
Factories (non-mechanical)	1
Licensed premises	5
Places of Entertainment	8
Slaughterhouses	72
Knackers' Yards	2
Shops (Shops Act)	38
Food Shops	42
Bakehouses	23
Ice Cream premises	2
Dairies and Milkshops	5
Food Preparing premises	26
Food Inspection (meat)	775
Food Inspection (fish)	5
Food Inspection (other foodstuffs)	29

cont.

Sampling (water)	23
Water supplies	21
Moveable dwellings	105
Accumulations	68
Tips	217
Dustbins	160
Keeping of animals	82
Rodent Control	82
Vermin and Other pests	52
Smoke nuisances	23
Drainage	173
Infectious diseases	26
Rivers, ditches & watercourses	14
Inspections under Pet Animals Act	4
Petroleum	46
Appointments (Contractors)	31
Appointments (Owners or Agents)	36
Welfare	84
Miscellaneous	144
T O T A L	<u>3,037</u>

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Statutory</u>
Public Health		
and Housing Acts ...	66	2
Food & Drugs Act		
1938 - 1950 ...	2	-
Factories Act, 1937 ...	1	-

HOUSING STATISTICS

The Housing statistics of the year are set out below:

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:
 - (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts 89
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 337
- Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil
- Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 67

2.	<u>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:</u>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses made fit as the result of informal action	66
3.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year:</u>	
	(a) Proceedings under section 9 of the Housing Act 1936:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses made fit after service of formal notice	
	i. By owners	Nil
	ii. By local authority in default of owners	Nil
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	i. By Owners	1
	ii. By local authority in default of Owners	Nil
	(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:	
	(1) Dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	6
	(2) Dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of Section 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953	2
	(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	1
	(e) Proceedings under section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses provided with dustbins by owners or occupiers -	
	i. after service of informal notices	40
	ii. after service of statutory notice	1
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses provided with dustbins by local authority in default of owners or occupiers	Nil

HOUSING

Despite the fact that since 1946, 827 new dwellings had been built by the Council and 362 by private enterprise, the demand for housing accommodation continues and the problem confronting the authority remains formidable.

The shortage of housing accommodation has precluded, to a large extent, action under the Housing Acts but the hope is expressed that future conditions will allow for a definite programme for the clearance of unsatisfactory and unfit dwellings to be made.

In May, 1954, after a preliminary survey, a list of the most dilapidated and known unfit houses was submitted to and considered by the Public Health Committee and as a result it was recommended that the Council should deal with 30 unfit dwellings, including the re-housing of the occupants, a year.

During the year, 8 unfit dwelling houses were demolished and a Closing Order was made in respect of the rooms of a basement.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Following the usual practice, Housing Estates and Requisitioned Property under the control of the Council have received attention.

Complaints were in all cases promptly investigated and, where necessary, works of repair were carried out by the Surveyor's Department. In 10 instances, measures were taken for the eradication of wood worm or noxious insects.

During the year, the Housing (Letting) Sub-Committee interviewed 45 applicants; the number of families rehoused by the Council for the first time was 63 and the number of families rehoused by transfer was 50.

The chief difficulty experienced has been the rehousing and settling of problem families. In some cases nothing short of the threat of drastic action, involving eviction from their homes and the strict enforcement of cleanliness, is the only means whereby a definite improvement can be achieved. Even if either course is adopted and eviction effected, it is not always successful. Since the War, it has been the practice of the Council to re-house families of the type referred to in substandard property in an effort to effect rehabilitation in intermediary stages without the heartbreak of children being separated from their parents and rendering the family homeless.

DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Disinfections were carried out in the following instances:

Premises - infectious disease	8
Bedding	1

(b) Disinfestations were necessary in the following instances:

Premises - bed bugs	1
- wasp nests	17
- others	3

Observation was again maintained on the Council's Refuse Tip for crickets and other vermin and treatment was forthwith carried out when any infestation was found.

RODENT CONTROL

Complaints regarding the presence of rats and mice were given immediate attention and the methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to deal with the problem of rats and mice infestation applied. Excellent work has been carried out by your Rodent Operatives and it is gratifying to report that none of the infestations dealt with during the year were of "reservoir" type.

During the twelve months ended 31st December 1954, the following work was carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :

Complaints received	170
Visits to premises by Sanitary Inspectors	82
Visits to premises by Rodent Operatives	1577
Premises disinfested for Rats and Mice	189

As a result of the routine inspection of the district for rodents, an increasing number of people become aware of the anti-pest service available to them. It is obvious too that the public in Sunbury is becoming more conscious of the risk of food being contaminated by rodents and great interest is shown by many in the methods of treatment.

RIVERS, STREAMS, PONDS AND DITCHES Inspections of the river banks, streams and ditches were made during the year. In one instance it was necessary to call upon the owner of property near Walton Bridge to fill in trenches which were offensive and a nuisance owing to faecal matter being deposited therein.

Among the many works carried out by the Council for the abatement of nuisances, reference must be made of the culverting of the Nursery Road ditch. For many years this ditch had been the receptacle for garbage and rubbish and a breeding place for mosquitoes.

FILLING-IN OF EXHAUSTED GRAVEL PITS Complaints of nuisances from the filling-in of disused gravel pits were fewer than in past years. This state of affairs was due chiefly to improved methods of aeration of the water content of the pits and by improved methods of tipping brought about by the operation of the more recent licensing conditions of the Middlesex County Council and this authority.

I feel that mention should be made of the voluntary help and advice given to this department by Mr. J.F. Furness, B.Sc., who gave much of his leisure time and research in an endeavour to find a solution to our problem.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS The number of caravans and caravan dwellers has increased considerably in the district during the last few years and although no major difficulties or serious nuisances have arisen at any of the various sites, there is always a potential danger to health where inadequate water supplies and an absence of proper drainage conditions exist. Caravans as dwellings are no doubt ideal for the purpose of moving about the country but immediately they are premanently sited, their need is ended, as with the abolition of building restrictions it is easier and probably cheaper to build a hygienic type of chalet or bungalow.

In several instances, difficulty has been experienced in dealing with vans occupied by persons of the nomad type but in all cases they have been prevented from making a permanent camp - their sojourn in the district, unless observed immediately they arrive, is usually a few days. Unfortunately in the absence of proper conveniences, the prevention of abuses and control of their roadside camps is an almost impossible task. On every occasion when asked to assist, the Police have been co-operative and helpful in moving the invaders.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
HANDLING PREMISES

The following inspections have been made of premises where food is handled, stored or exposed for sale:

Ice Cream premises	2
Milk shops and dairies	6
Food Preparing premises	26
Other food premises	42

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption and either destroyed by Officers of the Department or salvaged in accordance with instructions laid down by the Ministry of Food:

Meat (Home killed)	161 lbs
Meat (Imported)	166 lbs
Wet fish	122 lbs
Shellfish	1 bushel
Flavouring	1 pint
Dried fruit	27 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Coconut	8 lbs
Canned meat	21 tins
Miscellaneous canned food	29 tins
Milk	6 tins
Ham	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Sausages	40 lbs

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND
STERILISED) REGULATIONS 1949-1950

Licences were issued for the sale of special designated milk under the above regulations. Licences in force are as follows:

Authorising sale of milk by dealers under special designation "Pasteurised"	6
Authorising sale of milk under Supplementary Licence and the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2
Authorising sale of milk by dealers under special designation "Sterilised"	13
Authorising sale of milk under Supplementary Licence and the use of the special designation "Sterilised"	2

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK)
REGULATIONS 1949 - 1950

Licences were issued for the sale of special designated milk under the above regulations. Licences in force are as follows:

Authorising sale of milk by dealers under special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	6
Authorising sale of milk under Supplementary Licence and the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	3

MEAT INSPECTION

At the beginning of July 1954, the Ministry of Food relinquished control of slaughtering and meat rationing after a period of 14 years.

The coming into operation of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1954 and the resumption in the use of private slaughterhouses brought increased responsibilities to the department.

The onus of ensuring that slaughtering facilities were adequate for the needs of their district was placed upon local authorities as also was the responsibility for meat inspection.

The inspection of meat is one of the most important of Public Health functions and it is surprising how few people outside the department realise what it entails - the thorough examination of a carcase and offal of one animal may require at least thirty operations.

In addition, the sanitary inspector must ensure that animals are properly laired and watered prior to humane slaughter. The hygienic method of handling meat in slaughterhouses is a matter with which your inspectors are constantly concerned and endeavouring to improve.

Two slaughterhouses have been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as deadweight certification centres for pigs. Your inspectors are solely responsible for the classification of pigs qualifying for a guarantee payment under the Fat Stock Marketing Scheme. The local authority receive a payment for this service from the Ministry of 6d per animal, subject to a minimum of 3/- for each certificate.

In this area, slaughtering commenced immediately upon decontrol in the private slaughterhouses on a fairly large scale. It was at first thought that after

(over

the initial rush of slaughtering was over, the times of slaughtering and inspection would become static and could be arranged within normal working hours. This has not proved to be so and there is every indication to suppose that the present system will continue indefinitely.

The slaughter-houses were kept under constant observation and the necessary steps have been taken to secure proper compliance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations and Acts controlling slaughtering. Visits to the slaughter-houses have been made as far as possible at the time of slaughter so that the carcasses and viscera could be properly examined and any abnormal conditions more easily detected. To do this, however, your inspectors must be on duty each weekend and at least four, and sometimes five, evenings a week.

In addition to the two slaughter-houses mentioned above, another slaughter-house is licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

The number of slaughter men licensed is 22. The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption from 1st July 1954 to 31st December 1955 was approximately 10 tons.

Knackers' Yards There is one licensed knacker's yard in the district.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In no case was it necessary for this Council to institute legal proceedings under either the Public Health or Housing Acts, but in three instances extraneous matter was found in bread and in one of these cases proceedings were instituted by the Middlesex County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. The firm involved was cautioned and fined £10.

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